

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising updating said resource usage policy after said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising balancing said load among said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising:

- a) monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component;
- b) comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) deactivating a hardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and
- d) indicating that said selected hardware component is deactivated.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising signaling an event manager based on said monitored load as dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a predetermined occurrence.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when said monitored load exceeds said threshold for a period of time.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, wherein said resource usage policy triggers a number of alarms when said threshold is met, and wherein said resource usage policy dictates activating said reserve hardware component when a response to said number of alarms is not received.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26, further comprising updating a configuration profile to include said activated reserve hardware component, said update being made in response to said indication that said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim [[1]] 26 further comprising charging a user of said activated reserve hardware component a fee, said charge being made in response to said indication that said reserve hardware component is activated.

Claim 11 (canceled):

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[11]] 13, further comprising program code for indicating that said reserve hardware component has been activated.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising~~ An apparatus for automatically activating a reserve hardware component, comprising:

at least one computer readable storage media;
a resource usage policy stored on said at least one computer readable storage media; and

computer readable program code stored on said at least one computer readable storage media, said computer readable program code comprising:
program code for monitoring a load on a number of active resources;
program code for comparing said monitored load to a threshold specified in said resource usage policy;
program code for activating said reserve hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy; and
program code for selecting a reserve hardware component to activate based on a hierarchical resource deployment scheme.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 13, further comprising program code for signaling an event manager based on said monitored load when dictated by said resource usage policy.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 13, further comprising program code for selecting said reserve hardware component from a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 13, further comprising:

- a) program code for monitoring a combined load on said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component;
- b) program code for comparing said combined load to a second threshold specified in a second resource usage policy;
- c) program code for deactivating a hardware component selected from said number of active resources and said activated reserve hardware component when dictated by said second resource usage policy; and
- d) program code for indicating that said selected hardware component is deactivated.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising program code for returning said deactivated reserve hardware component to a pool of reserve resources.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 13, further comprising:

a configuration profile stored on said at least one computer readable storage medium; and

program code for updating said configuration profile to track the availability of each said resource.

Claims 19-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 26, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve processor.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 26, wherein activating said reserve hardware component comprises activating a reserve memory.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 26 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method to automatically activate a reserve hardware component, comprising:

monitoring a load on a number of active resources;

comparing said load to a threshold specified in a resource usage policy;

and

automatically activating said reserve hardware component when dictated by said resource usage policy, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[11]] 13, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve processor.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said reserve processor is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[11]] 13, wherein said program code for activating said reserve hardware component activates a reserve memory.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said reserve memory is a component of an active server resource.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[11]] 13, wherein the threshold specified in said resource usage policy is a rate of active resource consumption.